UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/684
S/1997/897
17 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 12 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 4 November 1997 (A/52/569-S/1997/852), I have the honour to draw your attention to new illegal and unacceptable Turkish actions of serious concern. These actions, more specifically the continuing violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and the flight information region of Nicosia and the further strengthening of the already excessive military armaments of the Turkish forces illegally occupying Cyprus, are escalating the existing tension in the island, the root cause of which is the invasion and the continuing, for more than 23 years now, Turkish occupation of 37 per cent of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 3 November, two RF-4 military planes, two CN-235s and one Gulfstream (G-4) violated the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic.

On 4 November, 17 Turkish military planes, of which 12 were F-16s, 2 were RF-4s, 2 were Gulfstreams and 1 was a CN-235, entered the Nicosia flight information region and subsequently violated the national airspace of the Republic. Of the above-mentioned military planes four F-16s, two Gulfstreams and one CN-235 landed at the illegal airport of "Lefkoniko" in the Turkish occupied area of Cyprus.

In addition, according to information received by the Republic of Cyprus, on 16 and 17 October, 12 mobile artillery units (M 110, 203 mm) were brought to the occupied part of Cyprus through the illegal port of Famagusta. It should be noted that this was the first time the Turkish occupation forces were equipped with this type of weaponry.

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As pointed out in our previous letters, these Turkish actions, which are in violation of repeated General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, further aggravate the situation in Cyprus. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly once again the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions and resolutions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. I would request, therefore, that all necessary measures be taken to stop such provocative actions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations